BOROUGH of CHARD

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year ending 31st December, 1942

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:
D. V. HAGUE,
M.B., ChB., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:
P. H. WEBB,
M.Inst., M. & Cy.E.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector:
A. L. LARCOMBE.

YOUNG AND SON, PRINTERS, CHARD

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Chard.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for 1942. There is still considerable overcrowding, despite the return of evacuees and reconditioning of 18 old houses. It is important that building of new houses should not long be delayed. Some of the Council houses have no baths. It is desirable that bathing facilities should be made available in the town for those tenants, and others in a like situation.

A few cases of Scabies have been reported, but not in sufficient numbers to warrant the opening of a Cleansing Station.

The year has been remarkably healthy. There have been very few cases of Infectious Disease. A small outbreak of mild Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) occurred. Three cases were notified in the borough. There were no Infectious Deaths with the exception of one case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Ambulance services have been improved by the loan of a small Ambulance from St. John's Headquarters, Weston-super-Mare, since August 20th, 1942.

Yours faithfully,

D. V. HAGUE.

SECTION A.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate ...	89	42	47
Illegitimate ...	4	3	1
Still Births—Legitimate ...	2	1	1
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
Deaths	54	23	31
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			19
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still Births)			21
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population			11

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis ...	Nil	Nil.
No. 30. Other Puerperal Causes ...	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	0
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	0
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	4
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

Causes of Death.

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis of Res. System ...	1	0
Cancer	2	2
Intra-Cranial Vasc. Lessions ...	3	4
Heart Disease	5	10
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	1	1
Bronchitis	3	4
Ulcer of Stomach	2	0
Appendicitis	0	1
Other Digestive Diseases	1	1
Nephritis	0	1
Suicide	1	0
All other Causes	4	7
Total	23	31

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1. Mr. Webb continues the whole work of the Sanitary Departments.

2. (a) **Laboratory Facilities**—No Change.

   (b) **Ambulance Facilities**—A new Ambulance was provided on loan from St. John's Ambulance Headquarters, Weston-super-Mare, August 20th, 1942.

   (c) **Clinic and Treatment Centres.**—The Evacuee Hostel at "Ivydale," Furnham Road, Chard, was closed on the 9th of May, 1942. Eight children were admitted during the period from the 1st of January, 1942, to the 9th of May, 1942.

   (d) **Nursing in the Home.**—It is highly desirable that a suitable residence be found for these nurses, who are responsible for the Midwifery and Infant Welfare of the District. Since writing this report Nurse Tonge and Nurse Roylance have taken up their residence at 2, Council Terrace, Old Town, Chard.

   (e) **Hospitals.**—No Change.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. **Water Supply.**—No Change.

2. **Drainage and Sewerage**—Repairs only.

3. **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

Drainage Tests and Inspections—

Tests	49
Inspections	31
Houses Disinfected	37
Dairies and Cowsheds Inspections ...	23
Water Samples Taken	4

4. **Schools.**—No Change.

SECTION D.

Housing Inspections

1. (a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts)...	16
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	31
2. (a) Number of Dwelling Houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under H.Con.Reg. 1925 and 1932	0
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	0
(c) Number of houses in which no action was found necessary ...	0
3. Number of Dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
4. Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	0

Housing Action

(a) Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	11
(b) Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action	0

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	0

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	11
(2) Number of Dwelling houses in which Defects were remedied after serving of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	11
(b) By Local Authority ...	0

Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936	0
Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	0

Housing Act, 1936 (Overcrowding)

19 Condemned Houses are at present occupied. An application has been made to permit the building of 50 new houses (First Year).

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

Number of Producers on the Register	8
Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows:	
(1) Distributors only	6
(2) Distributors who are also Producers	2

Meat and Other Foods.

Number of Slaughterhouses Licensed ...	1

Government Slaughter House

619 visits have been made to the Government Slaughter House for the purpose of Meat Inspection.

Regular visits have been made to shops. Vehicles have been inspected. There are no Stalls.

Adulteration.

Local Action taken	0

SECTION F.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

At the end of 1942 the following number of children were immunised:

	Total No. att. School	No. Immunised.	
School Children	718	609	85%
Children under School Age and over 1 year	240	127	52%

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified, 4 being admitted to the Isolation Hospital, South Petherton.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	2	0	0
Diphtheria	1	1	0
Measles	1	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	2	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	0
Pneumonia	4	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	3	0	0
Erysipelas	2	0	0

The following cases of non-notifiable Infectious Diseases were admitted to South Petherton Hospital:

Rheumatic Fever 1

Anaylsis of the Total Cases Notified

	Under 1 yr.	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	Over 65
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

Tuberculosis.
New Cases and Mortality

Age periods	NEW CASES Respiratory M	F	Non-Respiratory M	F		DEATHS Respiratory M	F	Non-Respiratory M	F
Under 1	0	0	0	0	...	0	0	0	0
1— 5	0	0	0	0	...	0	0	0	0
5—15	0	0	0	0	...	0	0	0	0
15—25	* 1	1	0	1	...	0	0	0	0
25—35	0	1	0	0	...	1	0	0	0
35—45	0	0	0	0	...	0	0	0	0
45—55	0	0	0	0	...	0	0	0	0
55—65	0	0	0	0	...	0	0	0	0
65 upwards	0	0	0	0	...	0	0	0	0
Total	1	2	0	1	...	1	0	0	0

New Cases — 4. Deaths — 1.

* Military